

IN THE CLAIMS

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Claim 21 (currently amended) A stringed musical instrument comprising a body, a neck extending outwardly from said body, a head located opposite said body on said neck, at least one string extending from said body to said head, said at least one string having a first end and a second end, means on said head for supporting and forming a first critical point for said at least one string, means on said body for supporting and forming a first critical point for said at least one string, said first end secured to said head and said second end secured to said body wherein said stringed musical instrument includes a{n} tuning adjustment device comprising a means for bringing said at least one string to proper playing pitch from an untensioned condition at at least one pitch tuning[s] quickly and a separate means whereby said at least one string is further pitch tuned at said proper playing pitch.

Claim 22 (currently amended) An apparatus of claim 21 wherein said tuning adjustment device is located on said body comprising at least one anchor connected with said second end and at least one additional separate means for pivoting said at least one anchor about an axis transverse the axis of said at least one string in a first direction for tensioning said at least one string to said at least one pitch tuning.

Claim 23 (currently amended) An apparatus of claim 21 wherein said tuning adjustment device is located on said head comprising at least one anchor connected with said first end and at least one additional separate means for pivoting said at least one anchor about an axis transverse the axis of said at least one string in a first direction for tensioning said at least one string to said at least one pitch tuning.

Claim 24 (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 23 wherein said tuning adjustment device comprises at least one lock to impede pivoting said at least one additional separate means in a second direction.

Claim 25 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 24 wherein said at least one lock allows pivoting of said at least one second separate means in said first direction while impeding pivoting of said at least one additional separate means in said second direction.

Claim 26 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 24 wherein said at least one lock comprises a plurality of spaced-apart stops to impede pivoting said at least one additional separate means in said second direction.

Claim 27 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 24  
wherein said at least one lock comprises a plurality of teeth formed on  
said at least one second separate means that cooperate with at least one  
tooth to impede pivoting said at least one additional separate means in  
said second direction.

Claim 28 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 23  
wherein said separate means comprises at least one tuner for varying the  
tension of said at least one string while said at least one additional  
separate means is in a fixed location.

Claim 29 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 28  
wherein said at least one tuner comprises a thumbscrew.

Claim 30 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 28  
wherein said at least one tuner comprises a continuously variable element  
for continuously varying the tension in said at least one string.

Claim 31 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 28  
wherein said at least one tuner adjusts the position of said anchor.

Claim 32 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 23  
comprising a nut and a bridge wherein said nut comprises said first  
critical point and said bridge comprises said second critical point,  
wherein said at least one anchor is adjacent said nut opposite said second  
critical point.

Claim 33 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 23  
comprising a nut and a bridge wherein said nut comprises said first critical point and said bridge comprises said second critical point, wherein said at least one anchor comprises said nut opposite said second critical point.

Claim 34 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 23  
wherein said at least one additional separate means comprises an L-shaped lever.

Claim 35 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 22  
comprising a nut and at least one bridge wherein said nut comprises said first critical point and said at least one bridge comprises said second critical point for said at least one string, wherein said at least one anchor is adjacent said at least one bridge opposite said first critical point.

Claim 36 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 22  
including a nut and at least one bridge, said nut comprising said first critical point and said at least one bridge comprising said second critical point for said at least one string, said bridge having a surface extending generally in the direction of said at least one string, wherein said at least one anchor comprises said at least one bridge opposite said first critical point.

Claim 37 (currently amended)      Apparatus of claim 36  
wherein said at least one bridge being pivotably displaceable about said axis transverse the axis of said at least one string, said second critical point travels a critical distance on said surface of said at least one bridge and simultaneously balances the harmonic tuning with said proper playing pitch as said bridge is pivoted raising said at least one string from an untensioned condition to said at least one pitch tuning.

Claim 38 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 37  
wherein said adjustment device comprises at least one lock to impede pivoting said at least one additional separate means in a second direction.

Claim 39 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 38  
wherein said at least one lock allows pivoting of said at least one second separate means in said first direction while impeding pivoting of said at least one additional separate means in said second direction.

Claim 40 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 32.  
wherein said at least one additional separate means comprises an elongated lever.

Claim 41 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 39  
wherein said adjustment device comprises a tremolo.

Claim 42 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 39  
wherein said adjustment device comprises a fulcrum tremolo.

Claim 43 (previously presented)      Apparatus of claim 41  
wherein said adjustment device comprises a macro-tuner.

Claim 44 (currently amended) A stringed musical instrument comprising a body, a neck extending outwardly from said body, a head located opposite said body on said neck, at least one string extending from said body to said head, said at least one string having a first end and a second end, means on said head for supporting and forming a first critical point for said at least one string, means on said body for supporting and forming a second critical point for said at least one string, said first end secured to said head and said second end secured to said body, at least one string anchor located opposite said body on said head wherein said stringed musical instrument comprises a[n] tuning adjustment device combining a means for bringing said at least one string to proper playing pitch from an untensioned condition at at least one of several preset pitch tunings quickly, a separate means whereby said at least one string is fined tuned at said proper playing pitch and at least one gripping portion intermediate said nut and said at least one string anchor for gripping [the] said at least one string.

Claim 45 (previously presented) A stringed musical instrument comprising a body, a neck extending outwardly from said body, a fulcrum tremolo, a head located opposite said body on said neck, at least one string extending from said body to said head, said at least one string having a first end and a second end, means on said head for supporting and forming a first critical point for said at least one string, means on said fulcrum tremolo for supporting and forming a second critical point for said at least one string, said first end secured to said head and said second end secured to said fulcrum tremolo, said fulcrum tremolo including bearing means for adjustably mounting said fulcrum tremolo on said body for pivotal displacement, said bearing means including at least one bearing assembly, said bearing assembly comprises at least a portion of a ball bearing surface.

Claim 46 (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 45 wherein said bearing assembly includes at least one shaft connected to said fulcrum tremolo.